

Desrciption of a new species of African tabanid  
belonging to the subgenus *Hybomitra* Enderlein, 1922  
(Tabaninae, Diptera).

by

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The specimen on which this communication is based belongs to the valuable material sent to us for identification by our colleague Dr. Vasco Sousa Dias, parasitologist of the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology in Nova Lisboa (Angola).

Since part of this material is still under examination, I think it opportunate to describe here the new entity that I have found, for which I propose the name of:

***Tabanus (Hybomitra) sousadiasi* n.sp.**

♀ - Body: Length — 14 millimeters; Wing: Length — 11 millimeters.

*Head* — Eyes bare. Frons four times as long as wide at the level of the antennae, covered with brown tomentum, with some scattered golden-yellow hairs. Calli yellowish-brown in colour: lower callus quadrangular; upper callus lanceolate, with a small longitudinal median depression; shining area at vertex triangular, of the same colour as the calli and with numerous medium-sized punctuations. Subcallus brown-tomented. Face and parafacials predominantly dark brown in colour, with numerous long white hairs. Antennae reddish: first segment triangular in profile, with a pronounced antero-superior angle, covered with short black hairs; second segment equally triangular in profile, with black hairs on the apical hedge; base of third segment enlarged in profile but thin, contrasting with the thick style; last two segments of the style infuscated. Palpi yellowish-white, with a few scattered black hairs. Proboscis black.

*Thorax* — Dorsum black, with four dark brown stripes, two sublateral and two marginal, covered with brownish-yellow hairs; notopleural lobes with numerous long black hairs; postalar calli covered with white hairs. Pleura with upper half brownish-yellow and lower half dark grey, the whole covered by abundant white hairs. Scutellum predominantly black, brown margined, with long white marginal hairs.

*Abdomen* — Dorsum predominantly brown in colour, covered with numerous short brown and black hairs, these last more abundant in the dusky areas. A light median stripe, rather indistinct, formed by narrow interrupted triangles, is present from the second to the sixth segment. Indistinct sublateral spots on the first six segments. Tergites 4—6 markedly dusky along the median line, thus emphasizing the respective median triangles. Tergite 7 black, with yellow lateral margins. Venter brown, with black last segment and sternites 3—6 more or less dusky.

*Legs* — Coxae greyish-yellow, with numerous white hairs. Fore femora entirely black; (there are no median legs in the only specimen examined); hind femora black on the basal three-fourths and brownish yellow in the last. Fore tibiae yellowish-brown on the basal half and black on the apical; hind tibiae entirely yellowish-brown. Fore tarsi black; hind tarsi like tibiae.

*Wings* — Clear, stigma yellow. Very short appendix on vein R<sub>4</sub>.

*Holotype* — 1 ♀, in collection at the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology, Nova Lisboa.

*Locality* — Nova Lisboa, Angola.

*Date* — September 30th., 1954.

### Diagnosis.

Oldroyd's key (1954) runs to *T. (Hybomitra) severini* Surcouf. However, the present species is easily distinguished from it by the following fundamental differences:

a) The calli are honey-brown in *T. sousadiasi* and dark brown in *T. severini*.

b) The basal portion of the third antennal segment is rather thin in *severini*, clearly narrower than the first segment, having moreover a black tip, while in *sousadiasi* this structure is considerably wider, of a uniform reddish colour and notably wider than the respective first segment.

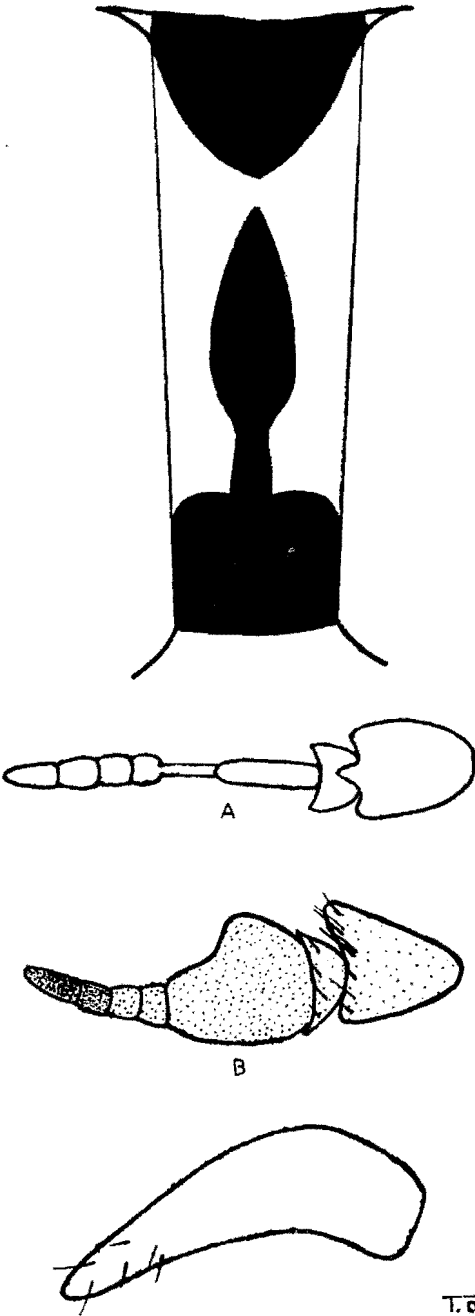
c) The coxae in *severini* are of a dark brown colour, with numerous black hairs\*, while they are greyish-yellow with white hairs in *sousadiasi*.

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\* Oldroyd (p. 143) says: "Coxae dark brown in ground colour, with thick grey tomentum, and with the hairs predominantly black". It is well to note that Surcouf and Ricardo (1909) were of a different opinion, as can be seen from the following extract of their redescription of the species in question (p. 163): „Hanches antérieurs brunâtres à tomentosité cendrée et pubescence blanche”.

### EXPLANATIONS OF FIGURES.

Fig. 1. *Tabanus (Hybomitra) sousadiasi* n.sp.  
Frons, antennae (A, dorsal view; B, lateral view) and palp of female.



d) The wings of *severini* are dusky and infuscated along the veins, while they are uniformly clear with only a yellowish stigma in *sousadiasi*.

I have pleasure in naming this new species after Dr. Vasco Sousa Dias, in recognition of his valiant efforts in favour of the parasitological inventory of Angola.

#### Key for the ethiopian females of the subgenus *Hybomitra*.

1. Hind tibiae with a fringe of black hairs. Palpi noticeably swollen at the base, whitish, predominantly black-haired. . . **vexans** Loew, 1858.  
— Hind tibiae with either fringing white hairs or with black hairs not conspicuously arranged in a fringe. Palpi not noticeably swollen . . . 2
2. Basal portion of third antennal segment strongly swollen, as wide or wider than the first segment . . . . . 3  
— Basal portion of third antennal segment relatively narrow, not as wide as first segment . . . . . 4
3. Dorsum of abdomen brownish. Wings with small appendix to vein  $R_4$ . Femora yellowish-brown . . . . . **sousadiasi** n.sp.  
— Dorsum of abdomen greyish. Wings without appendix. Femora greyish . . . . . **chevalieri** Surcouf, 1906.
4. Proboscis black. Dorsum of abdomen brown or greyish. Wings with or without appendix, being, in this last case, infuscated along the veins. 5  
— Proboscis reddish-yellow in colour. Dorsum of abdomen yellowish. Wings clear, without appendix . . . . . **subfasciatus** Becker, 1922.
5. Vertex with large shining area. Wings distinctly brown-infuscated along the veins. Appendix on vein  $R_4$  . . . . **severini** Surcouf, 1907.  
— Vertex without bare shining area, having only a pseudo-tubercle. Wings uniformly clear, without appendix to vein  $R_4$  . . . . . **muluba** Bequaert, 1913.

#### REFERENCES.

- OLDROYD, H. 1954. The Horse-Flies of the Ethiopian Region. British Museum, London, 341 pp.
- SURCOUF, J. M. R. and RICARDO, G. 1909. Étude monographique des Tabanides d'Afrique (Groupe des Tabanus). Masson, Paris, 258 pp.